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EDITORIAL NOTES

THE AFTERMATH OF THE LINCOLN CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION, FEBRUARY 12, 1909.

A year has passed since the celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln and the world has not yet ceased to comment upon the extent and character of the celebration. All classes of Americans observed the day, and the literature which was occasioned by the celebration is most voluminous. Several important societies have been formed for the study of Lincoln literature and the observance of Lincoln's birthday, among which the Lincoln Fellowship Club, of New York city, the Lincoln Farm Association, also of New York, and the Lincoln Centennial Association, of Springfield, Illinois, are the most notable. These societies observe Lincoln's birthday in a fitting manner and it is their hope that by means of these associations the observance of the day may be made perpetual. The two great celebrations of 1909 were held, one at the birth place of Lincoln near Hodgenville, Kentucky, and the other at Springfield, Illinois, the home of Mr. Lincoln's manhood and his burial place. This year the observance of the day will be more quiet and less elaborate, but it will be general. In Springfield the Lincoln Centennial Association will give a banquet with Booker T. Washington as the principal speaker. On the day following Mr. Washington will speak to a mass meeting. The Colored Historical Society will hold exercises in Springfield on the evening of February 12th. The Springfield Chapter of the

Daughters of the American Revolution will hold a meeting on the evening of Lincoln's birthday at the Lincoln home. The Daughters of the American Revolution appreciate the privilege of meeting in the Home and they will have a simple and impressive musical program, and the address of the occasion will be made by Hon. Orville F. Berry, of Carthage, Illinois, who will speak of "Our Political Inheritance." The Illinois State Historical Society will not observe the day in a special manner, but its members will take part in the other observances.

The Lincoln Centennial Memorial Committee of Chicago, has in prospect the publication of a notable volume to be entitled "Abraham Lincoln, the Tribute of a Century." This work will give an account of the great centennial celebration, the great speeches and addresses, the notable meetings and observances, the poetry, the pictures, busts, medals, etc., and all of the varied and striking events of the celebration. The editorial work of the volume is done by Col. Nathan W. MacChesney, who was the secretary and moving spirit in the work of the Lincoln Centennial Memorial Committee, which had charge of the great Chicago celebration of the hundredth anniversary of Mr. Lincoln's birth.

Colonel MacChesney is one of the most enthusiastic Lincoln students of the country, and this work, in spite of the magnitude of it, has been to him a labor of love. No one who has reflected upon the vastness of the centennial celebration can fail to appreciate the need there is of just such a report of it as this volume will supply, and the selection of Colonel MacChesney as its editor is a most happy and appropriate one.

McClurg & Co., of Chicago, are the publishers.

PREHISTORIC ILLINOIS.

There are in some localities pleasing indications of the revival of interest in the study of American archaeology. Last year a society was organized with the pretentious title of The International Society of Archaeologists, having its headquarters at Council Grove in Kansas—approximately in the geographical center of the United States. It issued on the first of last November, the first number of its publications, a small pamphlet of 22 pages styled The Archaeological Bulletin, Vol. 1, No. 1, designed to be published quarterly. It is a modest but meritorious beginning, and should be encouraged.

In Illinois the study of prehistoric anthropology, at one time engaging a good deal of public attention, has become wholly obsolete. In none of our public schools is it ever mentioned. Not a professor in any of our universities gives it the least notice—so far as it relates to Illinois. The Chicago University has expended large amounts of money in accumulating a great Oriental museum. The Field Columbian Museum, with its wealth of American archaeological relics, sends its learned scientists to the utmost quarters of the earth to study the nature and habits of remote native peoples, but is silent on the subject of prehistoric Illinois. No effort has ever been made by these or any other of our great local institutions of learning for the collection and diffusion of knowledge regarding the hordes of humanity that for ages, prior to the intrusion of Europeans, roamed over our hills and prairies.

The Illinois State Historical Society has endeavored to stimulate public interest in this study. At its annual meeting in 1908 a very able paper on "The Archaeology of Illinois," was, by invitation, read by Mr. Clark McAdams, of St. Louis. It is now contemplated to secure an address on the same subject, at its next annual meeting, by

a distinguished eastern scientist. Four papers treating of the prehistoric occupants of this State have been published in this journal since its first number was issued, intended to attract attention to this field of investigation. Though evidently failing in that object here, their interest was not altogether unnoticed beyond the confines of this State. With learned comments, one paper of that series was copied in full in a New England newspaper. A newspaper in Utah, and another in northern California, reviewed the entire series reproducing lengthly extracts from each. They were not noticed—probably not read—by any editor in this State. Nevertheless the Historical Society will persist in the presentation of this matter to the public, and in asking for assistance in this line of research.

We earnestly ask the readers of the *Journal* in Illinois to send us descriptions of such Indian remains as they may observe in their respective localities. It is of importance to record the number, position, situation, form, and dimensions of all Indian mounds and other burial places. If explorations of mounds are made, send us reports of every detail of their construction and contents, and of the enclosed human bones, implements, utensils, and ornaments, that may be found. Though commencing late, a collection of this class of material obviously must be of valuable service to future investigators and writers.

A committee on archaeology has been appointed by the President of the Illinois State Historical Society and the Secretary of the Society has recently received a letter from Prof. Frederick Starr written from Tokio, Japan, consenting to act as a member of this committee on his return to Chicago in June.

GENEALOGY.

Reference was made in the first number of this *Journal* to the genealogical department of the State Historical Library and Society, which was stated to be in “especially

flourishing condition, and our collection of genealogical works is a surprise to visitors." Miss Georgia L. Osborne, chairman of the genealogical committee of the Illinois State Historical Society, in her report submitted on Sept. 12, 1908, strongly appealed to the public, and particularly to the members of the State Historical Society, for assistance and co-operation in collecting Illinois family histories, and the histories of town and other local communities of the State. We take this occasion to reiterate that appeal. The history of pioneer families is of especial interest, and every year of passing time diminishes by deaths, removals and failure of memories, the facilities for securing them.

To be sure, personal genealogy in this grand democracy has not the theoretical value attributed to it in the aristocratic social organization of Europe. Yet, it has here an educational and inspirational importance that none should ignore. As tersely stated by an Illinois writer, "Every intelligent man should learn all he can of his ancestry, and transmit that knowledge to his descendants in order that the traits and tendencies of the stock, if elevating, may be emulated; if degrading, may be corrected and improved." Then, again, genealogy must ever be a material aid to the science of anthropology in tracing certain traits and tendencies of human character in the blending and amalgamation of diverse races. The time will come, after the tides of migration and immigration have reached an equilibrium, when the heterogeneous mass of people we have here will gradually be crystallized into a distinctive homogeneous American race. In that process of evolution—which has already begun—rare opportunities will be, and are now, afforded those who study human nature to observe the dominant racial traits and peculiarities that persist throughout all mutations and environments, and form the type of the resultant product.

Regarding ancestral history, the *New England Magazine* has this to say:

“Why don’t you trace your family history?” The common reply to this question is summed up in the words, “If I knew how to go about it I would enjoy doing so.” For few are the individuals who do not at times feel a longing to open the book of the past and read the records of their ancestors. Edward Everett felt that longing when he wrote, “There is no man of any culture who does not take some interest in what was done by his forefathers.” The desire to trace the descent of one’s family and to transmit the record to one’s successors is as old as life—a strand in the binding cord of filial love.

So prevalent has the desire been among all nations to which either history or tradition extends that it has been regarded by many writers as an instinct in human nature. Observing its universality, the historian Hume began his history of England with these lines: “The curiosity entertained by all nations of inquiry into the exploits and adventures of their ancestors commonly excites a regret that the history of the ages should be involved in obscurity, uncertainty and tradition.”

DEATH OF A PIONEER.

Henry A. Aldrich, the first white child born in Henry county, Illinois, died at Kewanee on Jan. 4, aged 74 years. His father was the second settler of that county. The Indians for years called young Aldrich “The White Papoose,” and gave him many presents. Before the railroads came he conducted for a long time a wayside inn, or tavern, on the Chicago road.

MORE MEMBERS WANTED.

The State Historical Society has now almost a thousand members. Many more are yet needed to give it the strength and prestige that such an important institu-

tion of the great State of Illinois should have. There are still a few counties without a representative in the list of its members. There is no formality or trouble in joining the State Historical Society, and the duties and obligations of its members are merely nominal—much more nominal than they should be. To become one of us all that is necessary is to send the name and address of the applicant, with one dollar, to the secretary of the Society at Springfield, and the request to be enrolled as a member. The dollar sent is not an initiation fee, but the payment of one dollar annually entitles the member to receive all the publications of the Society and the State Historical Library free of express or postal charges. Editors or publishers of Illinois newspapers and periodicals, who send a copy of their papers, or other periodical publications, regularly to the State Historical Library, become, by so doing, members of the Society exempt from payment of any annual membership fee, and their publications are filed and permanently preserved in the Historical Library.

There is no rule of the Society making it obligatory for the members to attend any of its meetings; or participate in any of its transactions. All required of him is to pay one dollar annually, or send the paper he publishes, and in return receive historical publications of the Society and Library, even at commercial valuation, worth ten times that much. It is presumed, however, that no one would be impelled by mercenary motives to join the Society. The interest in its objects and purposes must incite the membership to extend to it all the active assistance they conveniently can. If at all practicable they ought to attend its annual meetings, which are held at the State capitol in the month of May each year. They should regard it their duty to contribute to the Society such historical material as they can secure, as old documents, letters, papers, etc., or contribute to the pages of the *Journal* of the Society items of local current his-

tory, biographical sketches, or reminiscences of early times, to add to its usefulness and value. Failing in all this, they should at any rate exert their influence, by talking or writing, to popularize the State Historical Society and encourage those who do its work and sustain it.

COL. MORRISON'S ESTIMATE OF HIMSELF.

Dr. Snyder says: "In Washington City one cold stormy evening in the winter of 1886-7, I called on Col. Wm. R. Morrison at his snug quarters in Willard's Hotel. He was then at the zenith of his public career, serving his eighth term in Congress, chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, and leader of his party in the lower house. I found him alone, Mrs. Morrison having gone over in Maryland to visit friends; and we passed four or five hours in pleasant social conversation. After discussing the issues of the day, and the politics and politicians then prominently before the people, our talk drifted to old times in southern Illinois. We recalled early settlers and localities we both had known, and incidents and events that transpired there in our boyhood, and on to our student days at old McKendree college.

Then the Colonel, in reminiscent mood, reviewed his own course from his birth at his father's little farm on Horse Prairie—then in St. Clair county—recounting how he often rode on a sack of corn in place of a saddle to the horse mill near the Okaw and told of milking the cows and plowing corn; of his youthful ambition and struggles for an education, and the proudest day of his life when admitted to the bar; of his election to the circuit clerkship, and to the Legislature; of his service in the Mexican war, particularly in the battle of Buena Vista; of his service in the civil war, and being wounded at the capture of Fort Donelson; of his election repeatedly to Congress, and modestly mentioned that his name was dis-

cussed in connection with the Senate and even with the presidency. Then, after a few minutes silence, he remarked as though communing with himself, 'Well, I think I have done pretty d—d well, considering the capital I had invested.' "

ANECDOTE OF PROF. JOHN RUSSELL.

Mrs. Pauline Russell Lair, a granddaughter of the famous author of "The Venomous Worm," says that her grandfather's power of hearing, in his later years, was very obtuse, and he was quite sensitive about it. He was deeply interested in all Christian work, particularly in that of the Baptist church, and his house, at Bluffdale, was a free tavern for all passing Baptist ministers and for all other travelers that way, as to that matter. One day a little old pioneer Baptist preacher, on his way home from a church association he had attended, stopped there and, as usual, was hospitably entertained. Prof. Russell had not attended that association, and, eager to hear what transpired there, was delighted to meet a brother who had been there, and could tell him all about it. But unfortunately the guest's voice was weak and articulation indistinct, so that when he gave in his report the Professor could catch but little of what he said; but pretended that he did; and every now and then in the narrative nodded approvingly, exclaiming "Good, good," "well done," "glorious," etc. For a time these encouraging recognitions of the great inroads the church was making on the power of sin and Satan were very appropriate, and the pious brother appreciated the enthusiasm of his host. When he had told all the good things the association did, he went on in his mumbling tone showing up the reverse side of the occasion. "It was the most inhospitable Baptist association I ever attended," said he. "Bless God," fervently ejaculated the Professor. The little old preacher looked up in surprise, but con-

tinued, "After meetin' I stood around and stood around, and thought there wasn't anybody goin' to ask me home with 'em." "Well done," responded the Professor, "no mercy should be extended to heretics." Amazed at hearing this sentiment, the brother hesitated a moment and went on, "Finally, one of 'em did take me home with him, but he put me to sleep in a room where the winderlights was all broken out, and I almost froze." "Right, exactly, and obviously just," exclaimed the Professor, enthusiastically rubbing his hands.

"At this point in the conversation," Mrs. Lair adds, "the expression of the little old preacher's face suggested to her the advisability of explaining that grandfather Russell was slightly deaf and perhaps had not clearly heard what was said to him."

McLEAN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

It may possibly be of some interest to members of our younger county and other historical societies to learn something of the methods which have been followed by one of the oldest county societies.

The McLean County Historical Society was organized March 19, 1892. Its membership was never large. It started on its career with the determination on the part of many of its members to secure, if possible, the publication of its historical papers. Fortunately the two daily newspapers of Bloomington very soon commenced publishing the society's historical papers, and there grew up almost immediately a public demand for these articles. The society wisely decided to hold only quarterly meetings, calling special meetings only on important occasions. One special occasion was on September 1, 1897, when the society took the lead in holding a public celebration on the seventy-fifth anniversary of the settling of Blooming Grove, which was the beginning of settlement in

a large territory which was originally contained in Fayette county, but organized into McLean county in 1831.

This was followed by joint action on the part of the society and the McLean County Board of Supervisors in placing a memorial tablet in the court house in honor of the Hon. John McLean, of Shawneetown, for whom the county was named in 1831. Other celebrations of the seventy-fifth anniversaries followed at Funks' Grove, Lexington, Saybrook and LeRoy, by which time the people of the entire county fully realized that the organization was properly a county and not a county seat society.

When, in 1900, the city council of Bloomington, together with the society united in a very imposing celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the organization of the city of Bloomington, there was a very unanimous and zealous union of all parties, sects and classes of the residents of Bloomington.

In 1899 there was a general desire for the publication of the most important of the society's papers in permanent book form, and by the liberality of the board of supervisors volume I was published. The education committee of the board of supervisors recommended as an educational measure that the board pay the actual cost of one volume to be placed in each school district. This paid for 285 copies and the G. A. R. Post of Bloomington paid for 15 more, and donated one volume to each G. A. R. Post in McLean county. The title of the work was "The War Record of McLean County and Other Papers," and the assistance given by the board of supervisors and the Grand Army Post, with a guarantee from the society caused the publication and circulation of a fair sized edition of Volume I.

In 1900 the society took the lead in a citizen's movement for a reunion at Bloomington of the survivors of the Republican State convention of 1856, at which time Abraham Lincoln made his famous "Lost Speech." The

proceedings of this convention with other important historical material were published soon after as Volume III of the Transactions of the McLean County Historical Society, although the whole work was actually performed through an outside non-partisan committee.

In 1903 the "School Record of McLean County and Other Papers" were published as "Volume II of the Transactions of the McLean County Historical Society," and again the board of supervisors assisted by paying the actual cost of one volume for each school district of McLean county.

The society has about one hundred members and there are no annual membership dues. The accession fee of \$2.00 to new members being the sole means of support.

When the new fire proof court house was constructed in 1901, the board of supervisors with great liberality assigned the society a room about 35 feet square. The possession of this room enabled the society to gather a historical museum of great value and it may truly be said that the museum could not have been collected had the society's room been located in a wooden building.

A historical society is on its feet, so to speak, if it is able to publish its historical papers and to exhibit to the public, young and old, a collection of pioneer portraits, with tools, implements and household articles once used by our early settlers. I believe it is the general opinion of our members that our whole present prosperity comes from the possession of the large collection of valuable historic relics in a fire proof building. No less than 1,525 people have visited this room in the last six months, and it is safe to say that no single expense of our county is more approved of by the public than the room rent, heat, light and janitor service furnished the society by the public spirited board of supervisors of McLean county. The collection of flags and banners carried in the civil war and other wars by soldiers of McLean county is said to be the second largest collection of flags in the State,

ranging next to that possessed by the State of Illinois in the Adjutant General's office in the State house at Springfield.

From this necessarily brief account, some idea may be obtained of the importance of the work of one of the oldest county historical societies in the State of Illinois. Its room is open daily to the public and four times a year meetings are held, at which time papers are read which are afterwards published by the daily papers of Bloomington.

J. H. BURNHAM.

ST. CLAIR COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING.

A public meeting was held by the St. Clair County Historical Society, in the court house at Belleville on January 21, 1910. Probate Judge Frank Perrin delivered a lecture on the historical records and documents under the care of the county museum.

GREAT METROPOLIS OF THE NEAR FUTURE SHOULD BEAR HONORED NAME OF "CAHOKIA."

In his instructive and most entertaining lecture on the historical records now in the county museum, Probate Judge Perrin takes a look into the future and sees that day when Belleville and East St. Louis, combined, are one great metropolis, and he suggests that in that great day the new city should wear the honored name of "Cahokia."

Judge Perrin delivered his lecture under the auspices of the St. Clair County Historical Society, Friday evening, January 21, 1910, in the circuit court room. Several

hundred people heard it. Judge Perrin is the voluntary curator of the county museum and he has made a study of the thousand and one old records and documents preserved there. This has been a labor of love with the Judge and in classifying and arranging the records, the older ones of which are all in French, he has become familiar with their contents. His review of what there is in the museum, and its present day value, was enlightening to the auditors.

Touching on the ultimate consolidation of Belleville and East St. Louis and the finding of a name for the great east side metropolis of the very near future, Judge Perrin said:

"St. Clair, Illinois City and Cahokia have been mentioned as suitable names for a consolidated city. Illinois City is impossible. General St. Clair has received all that is coming to him. Cahokia alone remains.

"This name seems as indigenous to the soil as the forest trees themselves. It is the name of the oldest settlement of civilization in this State. But long prior to this it was the name of a tribe of aborigines, who inhabited this locality, and who is there to say that they in turn did not take it from the Mound Builders who erected those time defying monuments, which bear the name of Cahokia and give the locality a standing in the works of science of infinitely greater value than any rating in any commercial agency.

"Cahokia is the cradle of western civilization, as well as of popular government. She was the pioneer of popular education. They had the first prohibition ordinance and also made the first whisky. They resisted the wiles and blandishments of the Spanish village called St. Louis and were loyal to their village which was the metropolis of the west.

"The saying is that what was here, will come again; look what that would mean to you. Look at this magnificent history; these monuments of a prehistoric past;

the figure of the noble red man; what these things would mean in an advertising way. It was the first county seat of what is now St. Clair county, and remained so for nearly a quarter of a century until the high water compelled its removal to higher ground.

"If the river is now conquered and the high ground, added to the former county seat and other cities interested, it is not more than just that this name shall cover all? Would it be right to permit this historic name to pass from the geographies of the earth? It has been suggested that this society have the State erect a monument for Cahokia. What monument could be better than a living monument?

"It would be but common justice that this name should designate the magnificent municipality on this side of the river, which would eclipse the former Spanish village on the other side. It would be but the realization of the dream of the French sovereign 200 years ago.

"May this be the time when dreams come true."

A LAW OF INTEREST TO THE HISTORIANS AND HISTORICAL SOCIETIES.

An Act to provide for the promotion of historical research in the several counties of the State. (Approved May 20, 1907. In force July 1, 1907.—Hurd's Revised Statutes of Illinois, 1908, page 1360.)

58. *Counties, Cities, Etc., may make appropriations for historical research and publications. Section 1. Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois, represented in the General Assembly: That the several counties, cities, towns and villages in this State, acting through their constituted authorities, shall have power to encourage and promote historical research within their respective jurisdictions by making reasonable appropriations for the publication of the proceedings of and such*

papers and other documents of historic interest as may be furnished by any historic or other society engaged in historic research, and for ascertaining and marking the location of ancient forts, villages, missions, military encampments, habitations of aborigines and other places of historic interest, and to provide for the manner in which and the purposes for which such appropriations shall be expended.

59. *Printing and Sale of Publications:* Sec. 2. The authorities of such counties, cities, towns and villages having so undertaken the publications of the proceedings, papers and documents mentioned in the first section of this Act, shall have the power to cause the same to be printed or published in book or pamphlet form and to provide for the sale thereof at such prices as in their judgment will reimburse the cost of publication.

GREAT COLLECTION OF POSTAGE STAMPS.

H. G. HODGE OF YORK, ILLINOIS, HAS UNIQUE COLLECTION.

One of the most unique collections of postage stamps in existence is possessed by H. G. Hodge of York, Illinois. The collection is the result of 40 years of endeavor, Mr. Hodge having started to collect postage stamps in 1868, when he first became connected with the post office service.

After having collected many thousand stamps of the various issues from 1868 until the present time, Mr. Hodge, who is at present employed as assistant postmaster at York, began to arrange the stamps into designs during the winter of 1908. Letters were made, containing about 100 stamps each, and placed on pieces of card board. These letters were arranged together on an easel, 6x12 feet, into the names of our presidents, army officers

and noted citizens, as well as the date of each man's birth. It takes Mr. Hodge one hour to make each letter and the great number that he has made has meant a great deal of tedious work.

Stamp collecting is a hobby with Mr. Hodge and he states that the study of the prominent Americans whose portraits appear on the different issues of postage stamps constitutes a liberal education in art and history. Portraits of our great men have always predominated on the face of the stamps. The issue of one-cent stamps of 1851 bore the likeness of Benjamin Franklin, whose portrait continued to appear on stamps of that denomination until 1908.

Prior to 1883 the portrait of Washington adorned the three-cent stamps, and since that time it has appeared on the issue of two-cent stamps. The 1851 issue of five-cent stamps carried the likeness of Thomas Jefferson.

In 1863 the first two-cent stamps were issued. These were first used on letters that were delivered from the same office at which they were mailed. Andrew Jackson's portrait appeared on these stamps, which continued to be issued until 1883. Abraham Lincoln's likeness appeared on the 15-cent stamp of 1866, the 90-cent stamp of 1869, the six-cent stamp of 1870, the four-cent stamp of 1890, and the Lincoln anniversary issue of two-cent stamps which appeared Feb. 12, 1909.

General Taylor's portrait appeared on the five-cent stamp of 1875. James A. Garfield's likeness was engraved on the five-cent stamp issued in 1882 and on the six-cent stamp of 1902.

In 1892 the first eight-cent stamps were issued. These bore the portrait of General Sherman until 1902, when, to use Mr. Hodge's words, "General Sherman, like a true gentleman, yielded his place to Martha Washington, the first and only woman whose portrait has appeared on the regular issues of United States postage stamps."

In 1902 the portrait of Benjamin Harrison appeared on the 13-cent stamp and that of President Madison on the two-dollar issue.

Of the stamps issued in 1904, the one-cent stamp bore the likeness of Livingston, the two-cent that of Jefferson, the three-cent that of Monroe and the five-cent stamp carried the portrait of President McKinley.

The Jamestown exposition stamps bore the portrait of Capt. John Smith on the one-cent issue and the likeness of Pocahontas on the two-cent value.

Mr. Hodge says the one and two-cent stamps issued in 1908 are defective, the figure of value not appearing on the face of the stamp. The value of these stamps is designated by the words "one" and "two."

Mr. Hodge is one of the oldest residents of York. His ancestors came from England and Scotland and settled in New York in the sixteenth century and his grandparents came to Terre Haute, Ind., in 1810. Mr. Hodge's father was born in Terre Haute in 1818 and moved to York in 1843. Mr. Hodge was born at York in 1847 and has lived in the same town all his life.

SOME NEW BOOKS.

A NEW HISTORY OF CHICAGO.

Chicago's marvelous growth and magnificent future prospects, taken together, constitute a comprehensive topic for the historian, and when a proposed new history of it is written a great progressive step will have been taken in the field of western history.

The commencement of this great work is announced, and it is to be under the editorial management of Mr. J. Seymour Currey, one of the earliest and most valued members of our State Historical Society, a gentleman possessing in a rare degree that historical acumen which will enable him to select and arrange a judicious setting

for the most noteworthy events of Chicago's history, considering Chicago in the wider sense as a representative center from which radiates the history of the whole northwest. He is master of a charming literary style and has become one of Chicago's standard historical authorities.

Besides being president of the Evanston Historical Society he has been instrumental in the formation of the Cook County Historical Society, of which he is vice president. He is also honorary vice president of the Illinois State Historical Society at Springfield, corresponding member of the Chicago Historical Society, member of the American Historical Association of Washington, D. C., the Illinois State Library Association, the National Geographic Society of Washington, D. C., the Chicago Geographic Society, and the Sons of the Revolution. From this it can be seen that his tastes and associations are of a character which fit him for the task of preparing a history of Chicago, with the life and history of which he has been so long and intimately connected.

The first chapter will give a comprehensive glimpse of French explorations and discoveries and will be fully illustrated with rare maps and choice selections of historical memorials. The whole work is to be published in "Five Royal Octavo Volumes" to be printed in the best typographical style and will possess marked literary and artistic excellence. The last century of Chicago's marvelous growth, the period of its rise from "nothing to everything" will be presented in a setting which will appeal powerfully to the present residents of that great city.

The S. J. Clarke Co. of Chicago is the publisher.

STEVEN'S LIFE OF DOUGLAS.

About the middle of the summer The Life of Stephen A. Douglas, by Frank E. Stevens, will be issued. Mr. Stevens, the well known author of the history of the

Black Hawk war, has had this book in preparation for some years, and has exhausted every available source of information to make it as complete and reliable as possible. When done this biography of the great Illinois senator will be one of the standard historical works of the present century.

WALLER'S BRIEF HISTORY OF ILLINOIS.

Less than a year ago this little work was issued by Prof. Elbert Waller, of Tamaroa, Illinois, and was found to be so admirably adapted for a primary text book in the public schools, and also for general readers who are too busy to devote much study to Illinois history, that the edition was soon exhausted. A second edition has recently been published, by the Wagoner Printing Company of Galesburg, containing some additional matter and thirty-five illustrations.

Of but ninety-four pages, it is a marvel of condensation, and yet a comprehensive epitome of the State's history, clearly and accurately stating in order all the principal events transpiring in it within the period dating from its discovery, in 1673, to the present time. The book is neatly printed and well bound, is fully indexed, and in the appendix has a list of all the United States Senators from Illinois, with the dates of their election; and a table of information regarding the counties of the State very valuable for reference.

Offered for sale at 40 cents per volume, and 20 per cent discount for five or more, it will no doubt become in general use in all Illinois country schools, and be found on the shelves of most of the libraries.

GENEALOGICAL BOOKS IN PREPARATION BY
ILLINOIS COMPILERS.

CUSTER—Milo Custer, Room 304 Court House, Bloomington, Ill., is collecting materials for a genealogy of the descendents of Paul Custer (or Kirster), who died in Germantown, Pa., about 1700.

FRENCH—Charles N. French, 153 LaSalle street, Chicago, Illinois, is compiling a genealogy of the descendents of Aaron French, who died in Pennsylvania, in 1805.

FRENCH—Charles N. French, 153 LaSalle street, Chicago, is compiling a genealogy of the descendents of Benjamin Mackrill, who died, probably, in Huntington county, Pa.